**Discipleship and Justice Commission**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

*Connecting, Supporting, Transforming*

**AGENDA**

***2024/09/24 at 7pm***

**Roster:** Andrew Hyde (Chair); Edith Coyle, Cathy Hird, Linda Peacock, Kate Ballagh-Steeper, John Adeyemi, Diane Dick, Kristal McGee

**Staff Support:**  Kathy Douglas - Minister, Faith Formation

Thérèse Samuel – Minister for Right Relations and Social Justice

John Egger - Minister, Social Justice

Brenna Baker – Community of Faith Stewardship Support

Greg Smith-Young – Growth Animator

Krista Ford - Administration

**Present**: Andrew Hyde (Chair); Edith Coyle, Cathy Hird, Linda Peacock, ~~Kate Ballagh-Steeper~~, John Adeyemi, Diane Dick, ~~Kristal McGee~~. ***(cross out those not in attendance)***

**Guests:** Ayla Mackie

**Staff:** Kathy Douglas, Thérèse Samuel, John Egger, Krista Ford ***(cross out those not in attendance)***

The meeting began with a round of introductions so that new members and guests could get to know one another. Ayla discussed the tools she uses to help her navigate meetings and documents. She also offered some suggestions on how the commission could be inclusive to her needs. The types of files and documents that are best for her text reader, speaking our name before talking so she is aware who is speaking, voting on motions verbally rather than raising hands. She also disclosed that she has dyscalcula which makes it difficult for her to follow along with numbers and that her text reader will not be able to read charts and tables for her.

**Acknowledgement of the Land/Territory -** Andrew read the land acknowledgement

**Opening Prayer -** Andrew offered opening prayer and reflection for the commission

**Reminder of equity** **monitor and pastoral presence for our meeting: -** Linda Peacock offered to be the equity monitor for the meeting.

**Approval of Agenda for Sept 24, 2024 D&J Commission Meeting:**

**MOTION** by *Cathy Hird* / Diane Dick that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council accept the agenda as distributed.

MOTION **CARRIED**

**Approval of Minutes from June 19, 2024 D&J Commission Meeting:**

**MOTION** by Cathy Hird / Linda Peacock that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the minutes of June 19, 2024 as distributed.

MOTION **CARRIED**

**Funds Available (see full chart below):** *Not including costs from email votes in July*

* 1. Events fund balance available as of the last meeting: $5,905
  2. Meeting fund balance available as of the last meeting: $3,000

1. **Record of email votes since the last meeting to be documented for the minutes:** 
   1. MOTION: Moved by (Kate Ballagh-Steeper/Diane Dick) that the Western Ontario Waterways Discipleship & Justice Commission approve the allocation of up to $1,000 (which is 1/3 of the event cost) from the Events Budget, to fund the Kids Across the Regions event, held at Camp Bimini on June 7/8, 2024.

CARRIED BY EMAIL VOTE (July 10, 2024)

* 1. MOTION: Moved by (Linda Peacock/Diane Dick) that the Western Ontario Waterways Discipleship & Justice Commission approve funding of $560 from the Events Budget for a second pilot online “fishbowl” workshop for an intercultural (i.e. cross-generational) fishbowl sharing between youth and adult leaders in congregations.

CARRIED BY EMAIL VOTE (July 12, 2024)

**Kathy’s Report**

Kathy Douglas joined the meeting from a retreat in Alberta, and as she was on a dinner break at the time of the meeting, Andrew offered for her to give her report and speak to any important pieces of business before she needed to leave. Kathy’s staff report was circulated prior to the meeting but covered the topics of what has been going on with Camps in the region. A recap of the Audacious hope event held over the Summer. There are plans to send youth to the GC45 event next year and that Kathy will be looking for local youth to go. She spoke about the mental health work that was being done with camps and that she has a motion in Business arising to pay Michelle Owens for her boundary training work done with camps over the Summer.  
Kathy then logged out of the meeting.

**Business Arising:  
A motion to pay for a share of the Audacious Hope registration subsidy:**

MOTION by *Cathy Hird / John Adeyemi* that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council direct the Treasurer to pay $6,550 to the General Council Office, from the Ministry with Children, Youth, and Young Adults Fund, for our share of the subsidy that sent HF/ARW/WOW participants to Audacious Hope this summer.

MOTION **CARRIED**

**A motion to pay directly for the subsidy of Maryn Work’s attendance at the Audacious Hope event:**

MOTION by *John Adeyemi / Linda Peacock* that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council direct the Treasurer to pay $300 to the Maryn Work (158 Grove St. Guelph ON, N1E 2W7), from the Ministry with Children, Youth, and Young Adults Fund – pursuant to her participation at Audacious Hope.

MOTION **CARRIED**

**A motion to pay Michelle Owens for camp boundaries training;**

MOTION by *Cathy Hind / Edith Coyle* that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the allocation of $225 from the Events Budget for honorarium for Michelle Owens who led boundaries training at Camp Bimini during Staff Training 2024.

MOTION **CARRIED**

**Correspondence:**

There was no correspondence received for the commission prior to this meeting.

**New Business:**

Request for $500 Funding re. Grassy Narrows River Run bus

MOTION by *Diane Dick* / *Cathy Hird* that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Western Ontario Waterways regional council approve the allocation of up to $500 from the events budget to be paid to Katy Fulfer for the Grassy Narrows River Run bus transportation from Kitchener to the event.

MOTION **CARRIED**

**Discussion re. Assessing 2025 Mission Support Applications**

John spoke about the Mission Support Grant applications this year, noting that the deadline is Oct 1st. Once all the applications have come in and have been reviewed by John he will share them with Krista who will put the information into a spreadsheet.  
John updated that several staff had discussed looking into a software program through Submit.com to help with the application process but after much discussion the cost didn’t feel like a good way to spend money at this point.

Cathy touched on the importance of remembering the priorities of the region when making decisions on how to allocate funds. Also reminded everyone of the commitment to being affirming when making decisions as well. The priorities of the region were read by Thérèse and noted they appear at the bottom of the meeting agenda and minute template.  
  
There was discussion on how the commission could best help Ayla be part of the M&S grant application meeting. Cathy Hird offered to take time to verbally read all the applications received to Ayla in advance of the meeting, as the formatting of the applications will not work for her document reading software. John Adeyemi asked if he could be included in a meeting to go over the process as well as he is new to the commission and would like to learn more prior to the official decision making meeting.

**Discussion re. Revisiting Mission Support Priorities**It was suggested that we gather more information on the history of M&S and retell that information, and to look at new priorities moving forward. It was suggested to stagger the conversation so that the applications for this year can be processed before looking at what new priorities might be.  
The topic of a soft launch of this information during table groups at the up coming fall meeting was brought up. The actual big discussion and decision could be made at the Spring meeting for people to have face to face conversations.  
Andrew will find a way to plant the see of future discussion for this at the fall meeting being held in November.   
Thérèse reminded the commission that there will be a place for a written report as well as a small presentation from the group at the fall meeting.

1. **Reports:**

* Kathy – see notes above earlier in the meeting regarding Kathy’s report.
* Thérèse

Thérèse went over her report briefly and asked for a motion to support the Anti Racism Workshop being held in 2025 with Alcris Lemongi that was not able to be held in 2024 as expected.

MOTION by *Cathy Hird / Linda Peacock* that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Western Ontario Waterways make note of its intentions to support the Anti Racism Workshop programs in 2025 with funding to come out of that years budget. Funding request expected to be $500

MOTION **CARRIED**

Thérèse also asked if someone from the commission would consider joining the workshop as a representative and then report back to the commission after the meeting is held in the spring.

* John

John spoke about the upcoming educational opportunity about embracing differences being held November 25-29 at Five Oaks. There are bursaries available to help offset the costs of attending.

* Executive

Andrew shared that there are proposed changes to the way the Property Funds are handled, and there will be further discussion about this at the Fall meeting.  
Andrew also shared the sad news of President Jennifer’s husband who passed away over the Summer and asked that everyone keep President Jennifer and her family in their ongoing prayers.

* UCW

Edith reported that she recently returned from a national UCW event that was held with approx. 40 members in attendance.  
There was a request looking for piano version of Voices United Hymn books if anyone is aware of any where to get a copy.

* Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils (SJNORC) – no report at this time
* Affirming Network – no report at this time.

1. **D&J Commission Fund Budgets:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2024 Events Budget** | | | **$10,000** |
| **Description of Event/Program** | **Date** | **Amount** | **Remaining** |
| UCC 360 Antiracism Program – Alcris Limongi   (deferred from June 20, 2023, anticipated program moved to 2024) | TBA | $500.00 | $9,500.00 |
| Music Ministry Webinar – Honorarium, Rev. Jeffrey Dale | March 4th | $75.00 | $9,425.00 |
| Regional youth event, Winter Fun at Highland Nordic Centre & Overnight Fun at Centennial UC | March 14/ 15th | $300.00 | $9,125.00 |
| Mileage for panelist (Harcourt Memorial UC) ‘Listening to Voices for Peace and Justice in Palestine” | March 25th | $350.00 | $8,775.00 |
| Duty of Care 101 Webinar – honorarium for Terri Sparling | April 23/24th | $75.00 | $8,700.00 |
| Blanket Exercise in the KW Area |  | $650.00 | $8,050.00 |
| Basic Income Info Night – Harcourt Memorial UC | May 21 | $570 | $7,480.00 |
| Music Ministry Gathering | May 21 | $75 | $7,405.00 |
| UNJPPI Conference (Nov. 1 & 2, in Mississauga) | June 19 | $1,500 | $5,905.00 |
| POSTPONED UCC 360 Antiracism Program – Alcris Limongi | Sept 24th | ($500) | $6,405 |
| Honorarium to Michelle Owens for Boundaries Training at camps | Sept 24th | $225 | $6180 |
| Grassy Narrows River Run Bus transportation | Sept 24th | Up to $500 | $5680 |
| **TOTAL REMAINING:** | | | **$5,905.00** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2024 Meetings Budget** | | | **$3,000** |
| **Description of Event/Program** | **Date** | **Amount** | **Remaining** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL REMAINING:** | | | **$3,000.00** |

1. **Next Meetings:**

Oct 22, 2024 at 7pm (Zoom)

TBA in November (Zoom) - Special Meeting re. Mission Support Applications

Nov. 16, 2024 – WOWRC Fall Online Meeting

Nov. 26, 2024 at 7pm (Zoom)

Dec. 17, 2024 at 7pm (Zoom)

1. **Closing**  
   Andrew checked in with Linda who acted as Equity Monitor for the meeting. Linda felt the commission learned a lot about inclusion through discussion with Ayla. Linda felt that overall the commission was respectful.  
     
   Ayla spoke up about additional barriers she faced in regards to attending events offered by the Churchs in her area. Difficulties in transportation to events. Diane mentioned to look into Seniors for Social Action Ontario as a possibility to help out with some area. It was also mentioned that some places have a Taxi fund to cover the cost of transportation.
2. **Chair Declares Meeting Closed 9:20pm**

**WOW Discipleship & Justice Priorities:**  
 **Right Relations**    
**Camps/Youth/Faith Formation**    
**Chaplaincy**